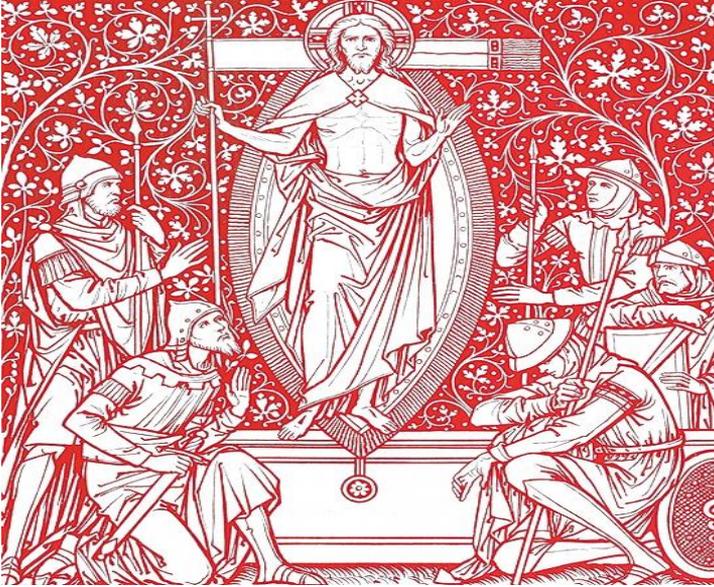


The Great Easter Vigil



In accord with ancient tradition, this holy night is one of vigil for the Lord. The Great Vigil of the Resurrection is the first service of Easter day. At the same time, this service is the conclusion of the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday) therefore, the service has no proper beginning – it is a continuation. The three days of the Triduum together make up one on-going service. In this vigil, we wait in longing for Christ to rise from His Grave. The Service begins in the darkness and gradually builds up in light – symbolizing the passage from the darkness of the Old Testament to the revelation of Christ as the Light of the World in the New Testament and for all eternity.

Holy Baptism also belongs to this night more than any other. The practice of the Early Church was that those to be baptized would lie down under the water – just as Christ in His grave – and then, echoing the Resurrection, rise up a new and glorified person in Christ; Thus, the connotation of being re-born with Christ.

PART I: THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

All assemble outside for the blessing of the new fire

Brothers and sisters in Christ, on this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus Christ passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. As we await the risen Christ, let us meditate on God's power to save and deliver, and rejoice in his promise of eternal life, praying that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work he has begun.

The Blessing of the New Fire:

Let us pray.

O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Blessing of the Paschal Candle:

1. Christ yesterday and today
2. The beginning and the end
3. Alpha
4. and Omega
5. All time belongs to Him
6. And all the ages
7. To Him be glory and power
8. through every age for ever. **Amen.**

Inserting the grains in the cross:

1. By His holy
2. and glorious wounds
3. may Christ our Lord
4. guard us
5. and keep us. **Amen.**

The Paschal Candle is lit:

May the Light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

All then enter the Church.

When the priest enters the Church, he lifts the Paschal Candle (three times) and declares:

Priest: The Light of Christ!

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE EXULTET *(Please be seated)*

Priest:

Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our fathers, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning - he who give his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

PART II: THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Lessons are read in semi-darkness

Dear friends in Christ, we have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now listen attentively to the Word of God, recalling how He saved His people in ages past; and, in the fullness of time, sent His own Son to be our Redeemer. Through this Easter celebration, may God bring to perfection the saving work He has begun in us.

THE FIRST LESSON:

Matthew 27:57-66

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took

the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb. The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 29 (*Seated*) (*Recited*)

I will praise you, Lord, you have rescued me and have not let my enemies rejoice over me.

All: **O Lord, you have raised my soul from the dead, restored me to life from those who sink into the grave.**

Sing psalms to the Lord, you who love him, give thanks to his holy name.

All: **His anger lasts a moment; his favor all through life.**

At night there are tears, but joy comes with dawn.

All: **The Lord listened and had pity.**

The Lord came to my help.

All: **For me you have changed my mourning into dancing.**

O Lord my God, I will thank you forever.

Priest: Let us pray:

God and Father of all believers, for the glory of your Name multiply, by the grace of the Paschal sacrament, the number of your children; that your Church may rejoice to see fulfilled your promise to our father Abraham; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE SECOND LESSON:

St Paul to the Romans (6:3-11)

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by

baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord. *All: Thanks be to God.*

CANTICLE *Philippians 1:6-11*



Priest: JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

All: Jesus Christ is Lord (repeat after each verse)

1. Though he was in the form of God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at.
2. Rather, he emptied himself and took the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men.
3. He was known to be of human estate, and it was thus that he humbled himself, obediently accepting even death, death on a cross!
4. Because of this, God highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name above every other name.
5. So that at Jesus' name every knee must bend in the heavens, on the earth, and under the earth, and every tongue proclaim to the glory of God the Father:
6. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Priest: Let us pray: Almighty and everlasting God, who in the Paschal mystery established the new covenant of reconciliation: Grant that all who are reborn into the fellowship of Christ's Body may show forth in their lives what they profess by their faith; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE THIRD LESSON

Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 22-32

Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them: 'Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say.

'You that are Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know—this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having freed him from death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, "I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence."

'Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, "He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption." This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.

The Word of the Lord. *All:* **Thanks be to God.**

*ALL STAND, BELLS ARE RUNG,
AND THE ORGAN SOUNDS*

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

[Hymnal S 280]

Please Ring Your Bells - Loudly!

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

Priest: Let us pray: O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by Him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL (*Please Stand* [*Mark 16:1-8*])

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!

O sons and daughters, let us sing! The King of heaven, the glorious King, O'er death and hell rose triumphing. Alleluia!

The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy (+) Gospel of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ according to (+) St. Mark.

All: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

All: *Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia!*

THE SERMON (*You may extinguish your candles.*)

PART III: THE BLESSING OF THE FONT & THE VOWS OF HOLY BAPTISM

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are all buried with Christ by Baptism into His death, and raised with Him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in His holy catholic Church.

To All:

Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God?

All: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

All: **I renounce them.**

Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?

All: **I renounce them.**

Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept Him as your Saviour?

All: **I do.**

Do you put your whole trust in His grace and love?

All: **I do.**

Do you promise to follow and obey Him as your Lord?

All: **I do.**

Will all you who witness these vows do all in your power to support each other in our life in Christ?

All: **We will!**

Let us renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Do you believe in God the Father?

All: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: **I believe in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

All: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, (+) and the life everlasting.**

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All: **I will, with God's help.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All: **I will, with God's help.**

Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

All: **I will, with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

All: **I will, with God's help.**

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of human being?

All: **I will, by God's help.**

Grant, O Lord, that all who are baptized into the death of Jesus Christ your Son may live in the power of His resurrection and look for Him to come again in glory; who lives and reigns now and forever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING OF THE WATER

The Lord be with you. *All:* **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us, through His death and resurrection, from the bondage of sin into everlasting life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in His death. By it we share in His resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into His fellowship those who come to Him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

The priest inserts the Paschal Candle into the water.

Now sanctify this water, we beseech you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that those who here are cleansed from sin and born again may continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

In the Spirit, let us all pray together that prayer which Our Lord Himself taught us:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name;**

Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sin, and have raised us to the new life of grace. Sustain us, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give us an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of that Peace.

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *This Joyful Eartertide*

(Please be seated)

THE COLLECTS *(Please Kneel)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, who made this most holy night to shine with the glory of the Lord's resurrection: Stir up in your Church that Spirit of adoption which is given to us in Baptism, that we, being renewed both in body and mind, may worship you in sincerity and truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Let us pray together:

All: **All praise and thanks to you, most merciful Father, for adopting us as your own children, for incorporating us into your holy Church, and for making us worthy to share in the inheritance of the saints in light; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

God the Father, by whose glory Christ was raised from the dead, strengthen you to walk with Him in His risen life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father (+), the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL (*Please Stand*)

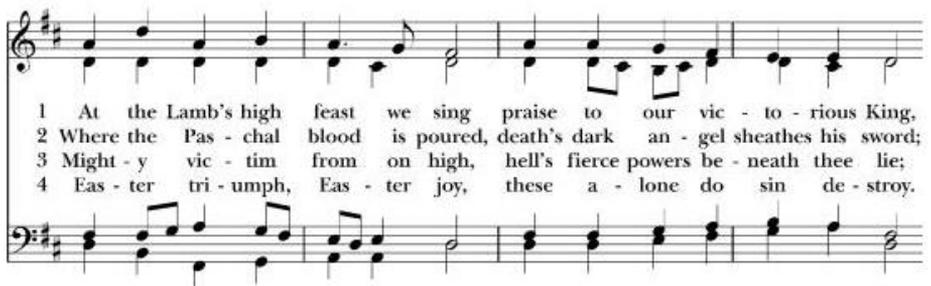
Let us go in peace to love and serve the Risen Lord! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN *Salzburg*

H# 174

The Congregation is sprinkled with the Holy Water of Baptism.



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our vic - to - rious King,
2 Where the Pas - chal blood is poured, death's dark an - gel sheathes his sword;
3 Might - y vic - tim from on high, hell's fierce powers be - neath thee lie;
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy, these a - lone do sin de - stroy.



who hath washed us in the tide flow - ing from his pierc - ed side;
Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
thou hast con - quered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
From sin's power do thou set free souls new - born, O Lord, in thee.

praise we him, whose love di - vine gives his sa - cred Blood for wine,
 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Pas - chal vic - tim, Pas - chal bread;
 now no more can death ap - pall, now no more the grave en - thrall;
 Hymns of glo - ry, songs of praise, Fa - ther, un - to thee we raise:

gives his Bo - dy for the feast, Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest.
 with sin - cer - i - ty and love eat we man - na from a - bove.
 thou hast o - pened par - a - dise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.
 ris - en Lord, all praise to thee with the Spi - rit ev - er be.

POSTLUDE Festival for Carillon

We wish you and your family
 A very Happy Easter!